

Appropriations & Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2007

Roll Call: Tribal Treasurer Shirley Oldman, Tribal Councilor Rita Shananaquet, Councilor Alice Yellowbank.

Absent: none

Attendance: Legislative Leader Beatrice Law, Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie, Vice-chairman Bill Denemy, Chief Judge JoAnne Cook, Associate Judge Jenny Kronk, Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima, Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount

Discussion developed regarding the work group for the housing development community center. It was stated that the work group is not updating the Housing Commission. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated Committee members; Ken Harrington and Deleta Smith should be updating the Commission.

Councilor Yellowbank asked about prior year funds and investing. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie reiterated her comment from the December 7, 2006 Appropriations and Finance Committee meeting on December 7, 2006 regarding Prior Period funds.

Treasurer Oldman talked of the Tribe having no money set aside for natural disasters. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated the Tribe does have \$10,000,000.00 that could be used for it and should almost fulfill one (1) year without additional money from the casino.

Treasurer Oldman and Councilor Yellowbank both stated that they are all about having money in savings and not spending it all.

Motion made by Councilor Yellowbank and second by Councilor Shananaquet to approve the minutes of December 7, 2006 as corrected.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried

2:00 p.m. Public Comment included comments from Bea Law, Bill Denemy

2:10 p.m. Public Comment closed

The Revised Investment Statute draft was completed and ready to send to Tribal Council to add to the Legislative Calendar.

The Revised Budget Formulation Statute draft was completed and ready to send to Tribal Council to add to the Legislative Calendar.

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and second by councilor Yellowbank to approve the revised Investment Statute and forward to the Tribal Council for final approval.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried

Discussion to set budget hearings for March 17, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Community Center discussion continued. Treasurer Oldman reviewed minutes that regarded this topic. Said we need to request another meeting, to include the work group as we are not on the same page. Also said the community center should be able to be built with the money already set aside for it. Treasurer Oldman continued to say the drawings can be redone and cut expenditures.

Councilor Yellowbank asked how much spent already on drawings./ Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated \$30,000.00 allocated for Elaine Keiser. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated that Vice-Chairman Bill Denemy needs to communicate with the work group, in which he agreed to do so.

Legislative Leader Law said we could use old Victories Casino kitchen equipment along with the table and chairs.

Vice-Chairman Bill Denemy was asked to bring Elaine Keiser to the next Finance Committee meeting with the work group.

Treasurer Oldman said the work group can not over spend and any new plans need to come to the Tribal Council. She talked again about Susan Hall and reiterated that the community building was to be a social gathering place.

Councilor Yellowbank indicated that there are ways to do this without double dipping the budget. She also talked of how families can feed over 150 people at ghost suppers out of their own kitchen without the use of state-of-the-art equipment.

The Biindigen resolution was talked about regarding the \$100,000.00 payroll payment. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie said the 2006 total appropriations included in this resolution, transfers funds to the non-gaming enterprises for support. \$60,000.00 went to Kings Inn, \$50,000.00 for an inventory system and money to Bells Fishery. Said all was outlined in plan that came with resolution. Each year government pays payroll for non-government enterprises and at the end of the year money transfers paid out money owed back to government. The reconciliation was finished on December 20, 2006. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie said Biindigen needed to transfer \$100,000.00 to the Tribe to reduce the payroll debt. Communication error happened. Said no one in accounting or anywhere else remembered, and thus blamed her as she was out of town. Valerie also indicated the Tribal Chairman gave her authorization for transfer when she returned so she did so on December 29, 2006. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie then stated that all money transfers were appropriate and approved. Store still owes the Tribal government over \$200,000.00 for payroll reimbursement. Chief Financial Officer

Valerie Tweedie suggests if the store does not come up with the money she will come to Tribal Council to appropriate funds as she is no longer comfortable with the current process of transferring funds. She said payroll should be paid weekly and that Bells Fishery will not be in same boat to meet payroll with in 3-4 months. Per Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie there will be no money and a request will have to come to Tribal Council if otherwise not taken care of.

3:30 p.m. Councilor Yellowbank leaves the meeting.

3:40 p.m. ten minute break was called.

3:54 p.m. meeting reconvened

Tribal Court chief Judge JoAnne Cook, Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima and Associate Judge Jenny Kronk arrived.

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and seconded by Treasurer Oldman to approve the Revised Budget Formulation Process and forward to the Tribal Council for final approval.

Vote: 2-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion carried

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima presented the Court budget modification and the transferring of money into the travel line item.

The Finance Committee went over the Tribal Court budget balance as of this day. Tribal Court Chief Judge JoAnne Cook indicated she was unaware of the balance.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima explained the Appellate Justices were not happy with pay for travel and various other items of monetary value s stated in the laws. She also stated the Appellate created their policy contradicting the law. Per Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima we need to look at the Stipend and Compensation Statute and make changes.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie recommends splitting the Appellate and Court budgets for accountability purposes. The Tribal Court staff agreed. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie asked Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima to work with staff Accountant Art Gerhardt from accounting to split the budgets. Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima agreed to do so. The Appropriations and Finance Committee concurs.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima then indicated appellate were told they should defend their budget concerns.

Legislative Leader Law said the appellate had 30 meetings in 1-year and had no opinions. Associate Judge Jenny Kronk asked what \$5,400.00 per year is for in the appellate budget. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie said it is their annual pay.

It was decided that Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima will still administer both budgets after they are split.

RE: the 2008 Executive budgets. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated the Prosecutor budget was adjusted and should have been adjusted under the judiciary. She also indicated they add justification sheets. Also indicated the additional staff requests were reviewed, and cuts were made based on [previous budgets.

RE: Gaming Regulatory commission and Gaming Regulatory Department posting of Administrative Assistant. Michele LaCount asked if the money for the position is for an Administrative Assistant as indicated by the job description which is to be posted or for an Executive Assistant as previous listed in the Gaming Regulatory Handbook. Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indicated it is fir an Administrative Assistant.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie talked regarding the Economic Development Commission and the transfers of travel costs to the CDFI grant. She indicated if a transfer can not be made; there is no plan to recover money. Per Treasurer Oldman, the Appropriations and Finance Committee can only report to Tribal Council the findings.

5:00 p.m. Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and seconded by Treasurer Oldman to adjourn.

Vote: 2-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 1-absent (Councilor Yellowbank)

* The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2007 in the Tribal Court Room